(e) In February, 1999, Dr. L.K. Behl, a former Chairman and Managing Director of IDPL was appointed for conducting a study at a cost not exceeding Rs. 5.10 lakhs. It was found that the Action Plan for the revival of IDPL submitted by Dr. Behl was not practicable and would not lead to the revival of the Company.

In February, 2000, a Two-Member Committee consisting of a member from the industry and a senior officer of the Government was constituted to examine the various facets of IDPL for ascertaining a methodology for its revival. The constitution of the Committee did not envisage payment of any fees. The Report of the Committee has been received only last week. The future of the Company, including revival, would be determined by the proceedings and the final decision of the BIFR.

Demand and Production of UREA

1402. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA': Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) what has been the demand and production of Urea during the last five years;

(b) how the demand-supply situation is being taken care of;

(c) whether there is any proposal to close down infrastructures for its production; and

(d) how Government propose to meet the gap and to ensure supply of Urea to all parts of the country, particularly to NE region, J&K etc.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) The demand in terms of consumption and production of urea in last five years has been as under:

(Lakh MTs)

Year	Consumption	Production
1995-96	179.09	158.20

1996-97	190.25	156.20
1997-98	196.19	185.96
1998-99	203.96	192.91
1999-2000 (Estimated)	202.52	198.30

(b) and (d) The requirement of urea in all the States in the country including North Eastern region and Jammu & Kashmir, is met fully through the mechanism of allocations of urea under Essential Commodities Act. The gap between demand and indigenous availability, if any, is met through imports.

To ensure timely and adequate availability of urea to J&K and North Eastern State, Government of India is reimbursing the cost of transportation of urea on actual basis under Special Freight Reimbursement Scheme. For other States, transport and distribution cost is met on a normative basis under Equated Freight Reimbursement Scheme.

(c) Keeping in view the Government's declared policy towards Public Sector, which is to restructure and revive potentially viable Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs), close down PSUs which cannot be revived while fully protecting the interest of the workers, the rehabilitation proposals for the two urea manufacturing sick PSUs, namely Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Limited (HFC) and Fertilizer Corporation of India Limited (FCI) based on unitwise techno-economic viability are to be submitted to the competent authority in the Government and, thereafter, for sanction of Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction.

Decontrol of Urea

1403. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the fertilizers industry in the country has sought total decontrol of Urea; and

(b) if so, what is the decision, if any, taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAMESH BAIS):